



Guru Nanak College Budhlada

Distt. Mansa-151502

Under the Management of S.G.P.C., Sri Amritsar Sahib

Affiliated to Punjabi University, Patiala

NAAC Accreditation 'A' Grade

Selected Under 'Star College Scheme' by DBT, GOI

Single Use Plastic Ban GURU NANAK COLLEGE, BUDHLADA

Every product has a shelf life however, that is not the case with plastic. Use of plastic is leading to one of our planet's greatest environmental challenges. Macro, micro and nano plastic threatens not only wildlife, but also humans. A large and unquantifiable amount of plastic waste enters the soil, air, water bodies and ocean from littering, burning, unsustainable management, unmanaged landfills and consumerist attitude. Many reports highlight that either reducing or recycling products could bring multiple environmental and economical benefits, yet the opportunities remain untapped. According to The World Economic Forum study done on plastic pollution around the world, Oceans will have more plastics than fish by the year 2050, if plastic pollution continues to increase. India's contribution to plastic waste that is dumped into the world's oceans every year is 60%. UN plays a major role to beat the plastic which has become a big threat to the society. After the establishment made by the UN Environment experts on plastic pollution, the Governments across the world are beginning to take action against plastic.

India is one of the developing countries which consumes more plastics and needs efficient laws to control and prevent plastic waste pollution. Implementing toughest laws in the country enables to control plastic waste and introduces measures to recycle and reuse the plastic which helps to safeguard the environment and make the nation one of the environment friendly countries. Sikkim was the first state to ban plastic in India in 1998 and it even targets to ban use of packaged drinking water and check Styrofoam and thermocol disposal to cut down toxic pollution and garbage disposal. This has been succeeded by the Swachh Bharath Campaign (Clean India Campaign). Major responsibility for implementing the rules is in the hands of



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Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees and also with the State Departments of Environment. India has imposed a ban on single use plastics (SUPs) from 15-7-2019 . SUPs are defined as those items which are completely made of plastics and are non-biodegradable.

The University Grant Commission (UGC) had taken a massive leap to eliminate plastic from Universities and Higher Educational Institutions by launching 'Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign' on 10-09-2019, to ban the use of the plastic. University Grants Commission issues the following guidelines for the higher educational institutions in the country.

Guidelines

Scope of guidelines

- a) These guidelines are applicable to all the higher educational institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- b) They encourage HEIs (universities and colleges) to adopt policies and practices towards cleaner and plastic-free campuses.
 1. All the HEIs in the country shall strive to make their campuses 'plastic-free' by systematically banning the use of plastic and replacing the same with suitable environment-friendly substitutes.
 2. Every HEI shall:
 - a) Ban use of single-use plastics in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc.
 - b) Carry out awareness drives and sensitization workshops on the harmful impacts of single-use plastics.
 - c) Mandate all students to avoid bringing non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution.
 - d) Encourage their students to sensitize their respective households about the harmful effects of plastics and make their households 'plastic-free'.
 - e) Install necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the use of plastic water bottles, and encourage the use of alternative solutions like cloth bags, paper bags, etc, instead of plastic bottles, bags, covers, and other goods on campuses.
 3. All HEIs which have adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan shall undertake a campaign in their adopted villages till they are converted into 'plastic-free villages' by promoting awareness and encouraging the shift to alternative products.

Similarly, The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued guidelines for ban of plastic use in Higher Education Institutions.



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Guidelines

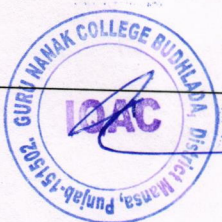
1. All institutions to carry out awareness drives and sensitising workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
2. Ensure plastic-free campuses in the institutions. Students and faculty must work towards this in mission mode. Usage of plastics should be stopped in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc. Students may not be permitted to bring non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution.
3. Every student will strive to make his or her household plastic free
4. Students to be incentivized to carry out similar campaigns at community level
5. Installation of necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the purchase and use of plastic water bottles.
6. Ensure presence of alternative solutions like cloth bags etc., to plastic bottles, covers and other goods on campuses.
7. Conducting events and poster competitions etc. on designing ecological and environment friendly goods to minimize the use of single use plastic.

Following the guidelines, Guru Nanak College, Budhlada encourages the ban of single use plastic in the campus and the hostels. Given the broad range of possible actions to curb single-use plastic, the college has drawn up a roadmap to effectively reduce the plastic footprint in the campus. The college has constituted a waste management and campus cleanliness committee to conduct surprise checks on the campus, hostels and canteens.

- **Target the most problematic single-use plastic**

Single-use plastic has seemingly snuck into every corner of modern life. The most effective way to tackle plastic pollution is to identify single-use plastic based products being used in the institution. The college has identified the following single-use plastic product highly used in campus and hostels:

Plastic Bags: Plastic bags are used in college canteen to sell daily commodities and food items. Students also bring plastic bags from shops outside the campus. Plastic bags create a plethora of problems like clogging sewers and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes and pests. Plastic bags can also increase the transmission of vector-borne diseases like malaria. Moreover, high concentrations of plastic materials, particularly plastic bags, have been found blocking the airways and stomachs of hundreds of species. Plastic bag bans can effectively counter one of the causes of plastic overuse.



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- **Identify and engage key stakeholder groups and Raise public awareness**

The next step is, of course, engaging our students, teachers, non-teaching staff and visitors. One of the best ways to get stakeholders connect with the issue is to let them see for themselves the scale of the problem; how the plastic they use in their everyday lives is spilling out into nature.

Organizing regular clean up events inside college premises, or at a local park, adopted village will sensitize the students and the general public about hazardous repercussions of plastic waste.

Besides this, different events like poster presentation, power point presentation, short documentaries, theater performances will also help to understand significance of single use plastic ban initiative of the college.

- **Promote alternatives**

It is more expensive to clean up tomorrow than to prevent plastic pollution today. The college will endeavor the use of different alternatives for highly used plastic products in the college. Reducing plastic in the canteen and hostel mess can be implemented, as returning to the system we had 10-20 years ago, where reusable cutlery, plates, trays, and cups were washed and reused time and again. The college canteens could take a bold stance by simply not selling plastic bags and bottles at all. The students and staff can have drinking water readily available via water filters, jugs, and taps; and strongly encourage the students to bring reusable water bottles. In case of alternative drink choices, try juices and milk drinks in refillable glasses; or drinks in cans and glass bottles. When it comes to college events such as fairs and parties; Instead of using wasteful disposables, the use of reusable cups, plates and cutlery and storing them between events at the college should be preferred.

- **Segregation of waste sources**

The solid waste management rules, 2016, state that it is the onus of generators to segregate waste into three categories — wet, dry and hazardous waste. The college has implemented segregation of waste at sources using bio-degradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous waste bins and handovers segregated wastes to authorized waste pickers or waste collectors as per the direction or notification of the local authorities. It is utmost important to enforce the selected measures effectively. The committee monitors the ban of plastic bags and Styrofoam products to reduce other plastic waste in college.



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